

JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

DECEMBER-NOVEMBER, 1947

Vol. XXXIV, No. 639-640

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A PRIVATE MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

WILL BE HELD IN

THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

31 TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON, W.C.1

ON

SATURDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 1947 at 3 p.m.

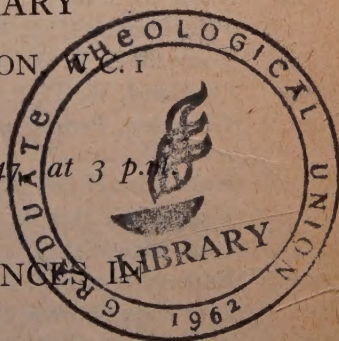
WHEN A LECTURE ON

"VICTOR HUGO'S EXPERIENCES IN

TABLE-TURNING"

WILL BE GIVEN BY

PROFESSOR D. SAURAT



Members and Associates will be admitted on signing their names at the door.

PUBLIC LECTURES

G

The Public Lectures arranged by the Society will be given at Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

On Friday, 21 November 1947 at 8 p.m.

V. 34-35 The Ninth F. W. H. Myers Memorial Lecture.

1947-50 "The Experimental Situation in Psychical Research" by Dr Soal.

On Friday, 12 December 1947 at 8 p.m.

"The Phenomenology of Trance Mediumship" by Professor Broad.

A Discussion Meeting for dealing with questions arising from these the previous two Public Lectures will be held at 8 p.m. on Friday, 10 January 1948.

Admission free. Tickets for reserved seats may be obtained in advance from the Secretary, Society for Psychical Research, 31 Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1.

NEW MEMBERS

Billington, Dr C. M., Haileybury and Imperial Service College, Hertfordshire.

Byrom, J. W., 10 Kingsway, Altrincham, Cheshire.

Carrithers, W. A., Jr., 463 North Second Street, Fresno 2, Calif., U.S.A.

Corns, Mrs A. C., 16 River Way, Christchurch, Hants.

Davies, Mrs G. M., Ty'n y Fron, Dolwyddelan, Caernarvonshire.

Douglas, C. K. M., O.B.E., 32 Coneydale, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

Ellis, O. C. de C., D.Sc., 16 Heaton Road, Withington, Manchester 13.

Fitzpatrick, M. J., BBC, 32 Great Castle Street, London, W. 1.

Forsyth, D. R. H., M.A., 128 Clevedon Road, Glasgow, W. 2.

Gartland, W. T., B.Sc., 127 Longdon Road, Knowle, nr Birmingham.

Goodden, Professor Windham, Travellers' Club, Pall Mall, London, S.W. 1.

Hale, Mrs H. W. K., 3193 Westmount Boulevard, Montreal, Canada.

Hellström, Mrs B., Sveavägen 77, Stockholm, Sweden.

Ison, Mrs Walter, 5 Sion Hill Place, Lansdown, Bath.

Kadirgamar, S. J. C., 261 Hultsdorf Street, Colombo, Ceylon.

Librarian, Brown University, Providence 12, Rhode Island, U.S.A.

Melville-Ross, T., Spithurst House, Spithurst, Barcombe, Sussex.

Merriman, Dr Basil M., 14 Chesham Place, London, S.W. 1.

Moore, Sir Alan, Bart., Hancox, Whatlington, Battle, Sussex.

Morris, B. S., B.Sc., 19 Springfield Road, London, N.W. 8.

Moss, Mrs N. J., The Old House, Ickwell Green, nr Biggleswade.

Norlev, Erling, LL.B., 72 Ormonde Drive, Muirend, Glasgow, S.

'Donnell, E., 8 Oakland Road, Redland, Bristol.
 elham, Lady Elizabeth, Estate Office, Falmer, Lewes, Sussex.
 ierce, F. H., 464 Morris Avenue, Boonton, N.J., U.S.A.
 hepherd, Rev. W. L., The Vicarage, Holme on Spalding Moor, York.
 parrow, J., 8 Collingwood Court, Hendon, London, N.W. 4.
 trangways, Hon. John D. F., Melbury, Dorchester, Dorset.
 treet, Mrs A. P., 204 Victoria Terrace, Silverdale, Stoke-on-Trent.
 romp, Dr S. W., Rijnsburgerweg 159, Leiden, Holland.
 erner, Miss M. D., 16 Clifton Terrace, Brighton, Sussex.
 allace, H. O., Cedar Tor, Barnack, Stamford, Lincolnshire.
 ilson, Miss B. B., 2 Carmel Court, Wembley Park, Middx.
 oodcock, Mrs N., 14 Primrose Hill Road, London, N.W. 3.

Student Associate

alter, H. J., 3 Bethel Drive, Kessingland Beach, Lowestoft, Suffolk.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

THE 429th Meeting of the Council was held at 31 Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1, on Tuesday 30 September 1947, at 3 p.m. THE PRESIDENT, Mr W. H. Salter, in the Chair. There were also present: Miss T. Rosanquet, Brigadier R. C. Firebrace, Mrs K. M. Goldney, Mrs F. Heywood, Lord Charles Hope, Miss I. Jephson, Mr D. A. H. Parsons, Dr A. J. B. Robertson, Dr S. G. Soal, Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt, Rev. C. D. Thomas and Mr G. N. M. Tyrrell; also Dr West, Research Officer, and Miss E. M. Horsell, Asst-Secretary.

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Council were read and signed as correct. Thirty-four new Members and one Student-Associate were elected; their names and addresses are given above.

A PREDICTION OF THE DATE OF THE END OF THE WAR

WE are indebted to Mr D. H. Rawcliffe, a member of the Society, for drawing attention to an interesting prediction reported in the *Revue Internationale de Radiesthésie*, (No. 4. Deuxième Trimestre, 1947).

The writer of the report, M. Jean Charloteaux, has published a book on radiesthesia: the art of divination by pendulums and similar methods. The account given below is a slightly abridged translation of M. Charloteaux' report.]

We start our story in February, 1941. Since June, 1940, we had been in Bavaria, huddled behind barbed wire in a P.O.W. camp. To celebrate my birthday, on February 11th, my friends presented me with a Swede turnip. In return, they suggested that I should predict the date of the end of the war. Since they refused to accept my protests and excuses, I got going.

I drew a little sketch which Lemaire, an architect in civil life, transferred to cardboard in Chinese ink. It was a design of concentric circles. The two (outer) circles, of greatest diameter, were divided into 31 compartments, numbered 1 to 31. Between the second and third circles the months of the year were written down. Finally, between the third and fourth circles were written the years 1940 to 1947.

I started the pendulum gyrating at the centre of the dial. After some seconds the movements changed to oscillations along the axis 1945-46. Held above 1941 the pendulum stopped dead; but over 1945 it moved vigorously.

"Gentlemen, the war will end in 1945!"

We found the month by the same process. The oscillation indicated May-November, the movement gave May. For the day, the choice lay between the 8th and the 24th. The 8th was finally fixed.

"The war will end on May 8th, 1945."

Everyone shouted. But a wise man, Commandant Mommens, said he was going to write it down for future verification. I often repeated the experiment when my friends asked me, especially on occasions when a military or diplomatic event looked like altering the prediction of the pendulum; but it never varied. On May 7th 1945, the radio announced that Germany had surrendered. My friends rushed into my room to congratulate me, saying I was only a day out. Next day the radio announced that the official date fixed for the termination of hostilities was May 8th.

The officers who had taken note of my trials during the years 1941-45 kindly signed an attestation, giving their names, rank, addresses and the date on which the prediction was made known to them.

[*Note.* The report was followed by a list of names and addresses of 20 Belgian officers, with facsimiles of their signatures. They certified that they had all at various times heard of M. Charloteaux' prediction before its fulfilment. The Research Officer wrote to 13 of the signatories, selecting those stated to have known of the prediction before 1944. Nine replies were received. Translations of these replies are given below.]

1. *Captain Egon :*

In reply to your letter of Aug. 25, 1947, I wish to state that I signed some time in 1943, a declaration testifying that, at that date, Lt. Charlotteaux had fixed the date for the end of the war. I was a P.O.W. at Prenzlau camp, near Berlin. Lt. Charlotteaux, an authority on radiesthesia, had the declaration mentioned in the *Revue de Radiesthésie* signed by some friends. I cannot recall the exact date fixed, but it would be embodied in the declaration.

M. Charlotteaux is the author of a popular book on radiesthesia which I have read with much interest. I confess that I was exceedingly sceptical about his statements, but I realise that on this occasion events have served him so well that he may be forgiven for some failures on other subjects.

2. *Captain-Commandant Mommens :*

I have pleasure in informing you that Lt. Jean Charlotteaux predicted that the war would end on May 8th, 1945, at a radiesthesia sitting held in

at a P.O.W. camp (Oflag VIIb) at Eichstätt in Bavaria. A small group of radiesthesists, beginners and others, practised the art, and it was during one of our sittings that Charloteaux foretold the date of the end of the war. We laughed at him a bit, for we all believed the war would end sooner.

Major Fleury :

I am happy to supply the information asked. I was a P.O.W. in Germany from 1940 to 1945. In 1940 I made acquaintance with Lt Jean Charloteaux. In the course of our long captivity in the same camps we became very friendly and I was able to help him with various pieces of scientific information which he needed for a book he was preparing. It was published after his return to Belgium.

In the second half of 1943, on a date I cannot precisely recall, in the course of a conversation at Prenzlau camp, Lt Charloteaux told me he had foretold, by means of the pendulum, that the war in Europe would end on May 8, 1945. Events confirmed this prediction. Although I cannot remember the exact date of this conversation, I am absolutely sure it was earlier than January, 1944.

Captain Marcel Boqué :

In June, 1943, Lt Jean Charloteaux arrived at Oflag IIa Prenzlau, where I was) from Oflag Xd. He was questioned, in the room where I was, about the end of the war. He gave the date, May 8, 1945. I made a note of it thinking what a laugh I would have at prediction by radiesthesia if it did not come off. To my great astonishment, I had to acknowledge, when the date arrived, that he had hit on the exact day.

Captain Raymond Troye :

I was walking with Lt Jean Charloteaux in the courtyard of the P.O.W. camp at Prenzlau in August, 1943. A comrade came up to us and asked Charloteaux if it was true that he had foretold that the war would end on May 8, 1945. He replied that the pendulum had indeed indicated that date. I scolded Lt Charloteaux for trying to take us all in, but he said he had made his enquiry perfectly seriously. I made a note of what he said, intending to rub in his mistake later on. But when we came to May 8, 1945, I had to bear witness to the accuracy of the prediction when Lt Charloteaux reminded me of it.

Captain J. Lippens :

One day in 1941, while I was walking in the courtyard of P.O.W. camp VIIb at Eichstätt, I happened to meet Charloteaux. We were both imprisoned there and I had known him for a long time. I chaffed him. "Well, a wizard," I said, "can you tell me if we shall be much longer in this camp and if the war will soon be over?" "Oh, yes," he said, "we are something like finished with our exasperating time here, and I can't foresee the end to the war until 1945—May 8, to be exact." I attached no importance to this date and never asked him how he arrived at it. It was only at the beginning of 1945 that I asked him if he still stuck to that date, and he did. After hostilities were over, he hunted me up to get me to sign a statement about the date, which I did without hesitation.

7. *Colonel M. Scohy :*

During the winter of 1942-43, as a P.O.W. at Oflag XD at Fischbeck had Charloteaux as my fellow prisoner in Barrack XI. I knew he was interested in radiesthesia and we were not backward in teasing him about his rod and his pendulum. One day, when he and his room-mates were talking about the end of our captivity, he announced to us that, thanks to his paraphernalia in which we entirely disbelieved, he could assure us that the war would end on May 8, 1945. On the day of the German surrender, May 8, 1945, in the camp at Prenzlau, he reminded me of his prediction which had gone out of my mind. I signed a statement attesting the fulfilment of his prediction.

8. *Major Vandermeersch :*

I am very glad to confirm the statement made in the *Revue Internationale de Radiesthésie* that Lt Charloteaux, in 1943 or 1944, foretold that hostilities would end on May 8, 1945.

The length of time which has passed and the small amount of importance attached to Charloteaux' numerous affirmations, as to which I was very sceptical, make it impossible for me to give you details of the circumstances in which he made his prediction. Lt Charloteaux was billeted in the room of which I was head, so he was one of my daily associates and I paid more attention to his remarks than to those of the other men in the room. It was only on May 8, 1945, when the happy news of the end of the war came, that I recalled that Charloteaux had given us that date in advance and felt that I owed it to him to testify to this fact.

9. *Commandant Dangelhoeff :*

I have known Lt Charloteaux many years during my captivity in Germany. He used to make experiments in radiesthesia and to teach his fellow-prisoners the principles and methods. I assisted at—or heard of—a lot of experiments that resulted in failures, but some of them were really successful. Although I don't believe very much in the power of radiesthesia to detect more than is actually in existence, and especially to predict the future, I must admit that some months—let us say two or three, perhaps four—before the end of the war, some fellow-prisoners were chattering about a roll-call and teasing Lt Charloteaux in a friendly manner about his so-called prophecies. Lt Charloteaux answered that in spite of all that people might say, the war would be ended about the 7th or 8th May. When Germany actually capitulated on that date, Lt Charloteaux reminded me of that conversation and asked me to be a witness, which I had no reason to refuse.

[There appears to be no doubt that M. Charloteaux made a precise and accurate prediction of the date of the end of the war several years before it took place. Of the nine witnesses who replied to the Research Office enquiry, two testify to having heard of the prediction in 1941, two in 1942, four in 1943 and one in 1944. The odds against a chance fulfilment would be in the order of 1000 to 1, or more. A great many predictions about the end of the war, made by mediums and others, were not borne out by even

[Charloteaux does not appear to be an infallible diviner ; several of the sitters mention that many of his efforts were unsuccessful. But this, in which the actual day was repeatedly specified, stands out as remarkable.]

A NOTE ON THE REACTIONS OF AN AUDIENCE TO A SIMPLE EXPERIMENT WITH PENDULUMS

ERIC CUDDON

At the conclusion of a lecture on Hypnotism at The International Institute of Experimental Metaphysics at Walton House, Walton Street, on Thursday, July 10th, 1947, I demonstrated the following simple experiment with pendulums in order to show the audience how very easily they could be deceived in ascribing to psychic or paranormal causes that which had in fact a very simple and perfectly normal explanation.

Three clear glass orange squash bottles were displayed upon a large and level table which was provided in the centre with a ground glass inset about foot square beneath which was an electric light. The bottles which were placed upon this inset were therefore fully illuminated from underneath. Each bottle, suspended from a hook in the cork, was a length of black cotton with a further hook attached to the end to form a pendulum. The length of each pendulum was different. The bottles were labelled "A", "B" and "C" by means of marked envelopes stuck to the tops of the bottles.

With very little practice it is possible, not only to set any particular pendulum in motion, but also to control the nature and direction of its movements, by means of deliberate pushing with the fingers which rest lightly upon the table. This can be achieved without any visible motion of the fingers being discernible.

If the table used is light and not very firm the pendulums can be set in motion by the UNCONSCIOUS impulses given to the fingers by sitters who concentrate their attention and desire to move any particular pendulum. The fact that the pendulums are of different length, and hence of different periodicity, is the reason why only one pendulum will be set in motion at a time ; the impulses which are correct for building up the movement of one pendulum are incorrect *i.e.* out of phase with each of the others.

By previous arrangement Dr West and Mr Douglas Craggs had been selected to offer themselves as sitters when a request was made for volunteers and both had practised the art of intentional control of the pendulums by indiscernible pushing or pressure of the fingers upon the surface of the table.

The audience was told that they were about to witness an experiment which they might well think was an improvement upon a Planchette. It was suggested that the bottles could be taken to represent my Spirit Guides as follows : "A" = Amenhotep my Egyptian Guide ; "B" = Ros, a little girl Guide, and "C" = Ching, my Chinese Guide, though I sometimes called him "I Can Li" as his answers were often unreliable and in opposition to the answers of Amenhotep.

The difference in the lengths of the pendulums was explained by the fact that of course each Guide operated upon a different wave length. Volunteer sitters were then called for and four offered their services *i.e.* two apart from my Stooges. As each came up to the table I asked their names and announced them to the audience. The object of this was to suggest to the audience that I did not know any of them, otherwise why should it be necessary for me to ask their names. At first I sat in the centre with two sitters upon each side and later left them on their own whilst I pretended to concentrate from several feet away upon the particular Spirit Guide, and pendulum, which it was desired to operate. Upon each occasion the particular pendulum functioned as desired. I then requested someone to ask a question of the pendulums. The question was "Is this done by Spirits?" An oscillation would mean Yes and a gyration would mean No. Another hotep answered "Yes" but "I Can Li" said "No."

In view of this conflict I told the audience it was up to them to decide and put to them the following questions and asked them to vote. The result was as under:

Did the pendulums only *appear* to move because I hypnotised you into thinking they did? Votes: 0.

Was their movement due to paranormal *i.e.* psychic means? Votes: 0.

Was this due to power of sitters apart from me? Votes: 6.

Was this due to power of sitters plus my psychic help? Votes: 8.

Was it due to normal means? Votes: 5.

By involuntary pushing? Votes: 3.

Was it due to intentional deceitful pushing by me alone? Votes: 0.

Was it due to intentional deceitful pushing by me plus accomplices among the sitters? Votes: 2.

It should be noted that the last three votes were those of Mrs. Goldr and two of my friends from the Magic Circle, all of whom were in the know so that in fact not a single person in the audience as such was prepared to vote that it was due to intentional pushing.

It is a remarkable fact that even after I had explained the whole *modus operandi* in the simplest manner there were still two people in the audience, one a woman doctor and the other an apparently intelligent man, who insisted that the pendulums could be moved by the power of thought alone without physical contact with the table and were most anxious to attempt to do so, although I pointed out that I was personally not prepared to waste my time in any such fruitless endeavour and that although I had a very good opinion of myself and my brain power I was not quite so conceited as to anticipate success from such an experiment!

It is really astonishing to what lengths a desire for something "psychic" will lead otherwise normal people, and I am beginning to think we should found a "Society for the Investigation of Psychic Seekers."

E.S.P. TESTS : A SUMMARY OF RESULTS

D. J. WEST

EXPERIMENTERS in this field are often criticised for unfair selection of results. In order to forestall this allegation I am reporting here all the hitherto unpublished tests carried out since May 1944, when I first began to keep full records of all trials performed under test conditions.¹

Results being negative, the conditions are not described in detail ; but it is advisable to have at least a summary of the scores. It is only by recording all results, both negative and positive, that we will ever be able to determine the true frequency of E.S.P. performance. It must be noted, however, that the percipients tested in these experiments were most of them specially selected for their reputations as successful telepathic subjects. The agents, on the other hand, although very varied, were not specially selected.

ZENER CARD TRIALS

Dates	Per- cipient	No. of trials N	Score			Description of Conditions	
			Retro- cog. Dis- ment - I	Target Score o	Precog. Dis- place- + I		
..47	†A.B.	350	65	70	77	W D H ₂₅ /25	T
7	*O.R.	25	5	3	8	W D H ₂₅ /25	T
	Misc.	150	33	27	36	W D H ₂₅ /25	T Ass.
	A.C.S.	25	4	4	7	W D H ₂₅ /25	T Ass.
7	M.J.	50	5	11	12	W D H ₂₅ /25	T
6	*R.A.C.	250	48	51	47	W S R	T
6	R.B.	500	98	97	102	W S R	T
5.9.47	†A.V.S.	1047	194	207	202	W S H ₂₅ /25	T
20.9.46	*R.A.C.	1750	319	338	329	U S R	T
0 11.12.44	*Mrs S.	1000	186	205	199	U S H ₂₅ /≈100	T
0 25.12.44	*Mrs S.	300	57	56	59	U S H ₂₅ /≈100	T Ass.
13.12.44	D.H.H.	100	17	18	17	U S H ₂₅ /≈100	T Ass.
13.12.44	†D.J.W.	100	16	28	18	U S H ₂₅ /≈100	T Ass.
7	M.J.	75	17	15	19	W Inf. H ₂₅ /25	T
6 & 11.3.47	A.Z.B.	350	56	62	66	W Inf. H ₂₅ /100	T
6	A.Z.B.	300	51	65	63	W Inf. H ₂₅ /25	T
7	*J.W.T.	50	5	9	11	W Inf. H ₂₅ /100	T
6 & 19.11.46	*J.W.T.	350	70	56	56	W Inf. H ₂₅ /25	T
6 & 19.11.46	*Miss M	250	49	48	50	W Inf. H ₂₅ /25	T
6	*W.A.W.	200	32	42	38	W Inf. H ₂₅ /25	T
7	J.F.N.	50	11	8	8	W Inf. H ₂₅ /100	T
	†A.B.	25	5	5	4	W Inf. H ₂₅ /100	T
Totals		7297	1343	1425	1428		
Expectation			1401	1459	1401		
Deviation			-58	-34	+27		
Standard Deviation			33.5	34.2	33.5		

¹ The only tests omitted from this summary are some trials (still in progress) with subjects under hypnosis, which are being reserved for a separate report.

GUESSING THE COLOURS OF PLAYING CARDS

Percipient, D.H.H.

No. of trials = 800.

Date	Expected Score	Observed Score	Conditions
25.5.44	50	48	U S R
26.5.44	50	57	U S H 100/ \approx 2000 P
27.5.44	50	58	U S R
27.5.44	50	55	U S H 100/ \approx 2000 P
30.5.44	50	50	U S R
30.5.44	50	43	U S H 100/ \approx 2000 P
10.7.44	50	50	U S R
10.7.44	50	51	U S H 100/ \approx 2000 P
Total	400	412	

TRIALS WITH PARSON'S COUNTER MACHINE. GUESSING FIVE
DIFFERENT COLOURS

No. of trials = 2000.

Date	Percipient	Expt. Score	Obs. Score	Conditions
5.1.45	†D.J.W.	200	211	U S H 100/100 P
8.1.45	†D.J.W.	100	99	U S H 100/100 P
19 to 20.7.47	*R.A.C.	80	71	W S H 100/100 T
1.4.47	†A.B.	20	20	W S H 100/100 T
	Total	400	401	

EXPERIMENTS WITH OTHER MATERIAL

Date	Per- cipient	Material used	Conditions	Method of Scoring	Score N
23.11.44 to 5.1.45	*Mrs S.	10 Illustrations from <i>Punch</i>	U. D. T.	Independent judge picks out target from four controls on basis of percipient's description	13/50
17.7.47	†Mrs M	10 Drawings of simple objects in envelopes	W.S.C.	"Blind" matching of guesses against drawings by two judges	3/20
24.4.47	Misc.	Three given emotions	W D R T	As card trials	4/12
28.4.47	C.S.	Five emotions	U Inf. RT	As card trials	4/25
28.4.47	A.M.W.	Five emotions	U Inf. RT	As card trials	3/25
1.4.47	†A.B.	Ten drawings	W.D.R.T.	Inspection	nil

KEY TO LETTERING USED IN THE TABLES OF RESULTS

- = Subject gives a history of psychic powers.
- = Subject gives a history of previous successes in guessing experiments.
- = One or more independent witnesses present apart from agent and percipient.
- = No one present apart from agent and percipient.
- = Agent and percipient in separate rooms.
- = Agent and/or targets well screened out of view of percipient.
- = Screening not always perfect. Informal conditions. D. J. West not always present.
- 5/25 = Targets selected by hand shuffling of a pack of 25 Zener cards.
- 5/100 = Targets selected by cutting a deck of 25 from a large pack of 100 Zener cards, hand shuffled.
- = Targets selected according to a prepared list of random numbers.
- = Telepathy conditions. Agent looks at target while percipient registers his guess.
- = Association trials. Agent and percipient both looking at same design or picture on the assumption that an "R object", or common association, is likely to induce telepathic rapport.
- = Pure clairvoyance. Nobody knows what the target is, and score known only in total and not as individual trials.
- = Clairvoyance. No one looks at targets, but trials checked individually.

THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PSYCHICAL RESEARCH GROUP

THE Cambridge University Psychical Research Group was founded at the beginning of the Michaelmas term 1946. It was decided to charge no subscription and have no definite membership scheme, but after the first meeting more than 80 undergraduates declared themselves willing to take part in experiments. A committee of five undergraduates (C. S. O'Donnell, A. M. Western, J. D. Proctor, J. Painter, and G. Bielstein) was formed to plan and direct experiments and control the affairs of the Group. In the Lent term 1947 Professor Broad was so good as to accept the Presidency of the Group.

During the academic year 1946-47 a large amount of experimental work has been done. Lack of space forbids more than a brief summary of this programme.

1. A large experiment under general (undifferentiated) E.S.P. conditions in which 54 people contributed 16,650 guesses. A group of agents were all simultaneously presented with a number target and a group of percipients were asked to record their guesses. The experiment was aimed primarily at finding a percipient. Taken as a whole the results were negative, and it is probable that if there are any interesting effects in the results they will only be revealed by an elaborate analysis.

2. A fairly extensive series of experiments on the PK effect. No significant results were obtained with any of a variety of techniques.

3. An experiment in pure clairvoyance, using coloured counters. In the hope of encouraging phenomena it was decided to begin with lax conditions. One percipient gave very striking results, and the controls were immediately tightened. His performance then dropped, though remaining just significant ($p \approx 0.05$), but soon afterwards the experiment had to be stopped owing to the reluctance of the percipient to continue the work.

4. An experiment suggested by Dr Thouless and reported in detail below, which, although it failed in its object, did include one significant result.

5. An experiment aimed at discovering any comparative effects of different working conditions on performance in E.S.P. Neither overwhelming evidence for E.S.P. nor differential effects were observed—though the number of guesses obtained was perhaps too small to give an opportunity for any paranormal effect to show itself.

6. Two experiments in which encouraging results were obtained and which are to be continued in the coming year. These experiments will be reported when complete.

7. Some experiments on hypnosis which, though interesting to the psychologist, were not successful in raising performance in E.S.P.

8. A number of isolated experiments with negative results which were either too short or too trivial to be worth describing. The Group also held itself in readiness to investigate any reports of local and contemporary spontaneous phenomena, but none was received.

All experiments and activities of the Group are fully recorded.

A total of four significant results was therefore obtained in some eight experiments, which is a most encouraging conclusion to the year's work.

During the year the Group had the good fortune to hear talks from three members of the S.P.R. Council: Dr Thouless, a general introductory talk; Dr Robertson on "Is Psychical Research a Branch of Physics?"; and Mr Tyrrell on "The Object of Psychical Research."

The Committee would like to express their thanks to all those who have offered us their services, in particular to Prof. Broad, Dr Thouless, Mr Dingwall and Dr West for their help and advice, and especially to Mr Dingwall, without whose generous financial aid the Group could have neither begun nor continued to exist.

C. S. O'D. SCOTT

EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION BY THE CAMBRIDGE PSYCHICAL RESEARCH GROUP

Report by DR R. H. THOULESS

THE experimental investigation here reported on was carried out by members of the Cambridge Psychical Research Group during the winter 1946-47. The plan of the experiment was suggested by myself but the experiment itself was organised by Mr C. S. O'D. Scott and Mr A. M. Wernert. The somewhat arduous series of experimental sittings was carried out by Mr Dodd, Miss Salter, Mr Beale, Mr Ventura, Mr Painter, Mr Nelder, Mr Macmanus, Mr Smith, Mr Greenhalgh and Miss Braithwaite.

The problem with which it was concerned was that of the relation of ability as percipient to ability as agent in extra-sensory perception. We have abundant evidence that different individuals differ in their capacity to succeed as percipients in experiments on psi cognition; we are relatively uncertain to what extent success in such experiments depends on the agent. The present experiment was designed to discover the relative importance of the individual peculiarities of percipient and agent in determining success in experiments on psi cognition, and to enquire whether there was any correlation between ability as percipient and ability as agent. Although the results of the experiment were wholly negative, this was not due to any defect in design or carrying out of the experiment but to the unfortunate fact that (with one possible exception) none of the participants showed measurable psi cognitive success. It seems, therefore, worth while to publish the method of the enquiry in the hope that it may be carried out in the future by someone who has at his disposal a sufficient number of subjects who can obtain consistently better than chance results in such experiments. There were ten subjects of the experiments, each of whom did six runs of guesses through a pack of cards with each of the other nine subjects. For three of these runs he was acting as agent while the other subject was percipient, while in the remaining three runs their rôles were reversed. The cards used were packs of ordinary playing cards from which the twelve court cards had been removed. A guess was counted as a success only if it was completely right (in suit and number). Thus each percipient made 60 guesses with each agent with a mean chance expectation of three right, and every subject of the experiment acted as both agent and percipient with every other subject, making a total number of 1,080 guesses as percipient and acting as agent for an equal number.

The number of successes obtained in each of these ninety sittings is shown in the following table.

The agent and percipient sat in the same room but back to back so that the percipient could not be guided by visual clues. An observer sat facing the agent across a table. The percipients were not informed as to their success or failure until the whole series of sittings had been completed.

Agents	PERCIPIENTS										Totals
	D	Sa	Be	V	P	N	M	Sm	G	Br	
D	—	4	2	3	4	2	3	3	4	4	29
Sa	3	—	2	3	6	5	5	4	5	5	38
Be	2	0	—	0	6	5	5	1	4	2	25
V	0	0	5	—	3	5	4	4	1	4	26
P	3	5	5	2	—	3	8	6	2	3	37
N	4	3	2	3	0	—	4	2	1	3	22
M	4	6	2	3	3	2	—	0	2	3	25
Sm	2	4	5	4	4	3	4	—	2	1	29
G	1	2	4	3	4	3	4	2	—	2	25
Br	1	2	2	5	4	4	2	4	3	—	27
Totals	20	26	29	26	34	32	39	26	24	27	283

Figures were also obtained for the numbers of hits on the cards one before and one after the target card but, since these also were not significant they are not included in the above table.

The mean chance expectations for totals both in columns and rows is 27 while that for the grand total is 270. The observed deviation of +13 in the grand total is quite insignificant (C.R. = .8, $P = .4$). Nor does there seem to be any indication that this insignificance of total deviation is the result of a small number of successful subjects having their scores swamped by a larger number of unsuccessful ones. It is true that Macmanus as percipient scores twelve more than mean chance expectation which as a separate score would be significant, but the odds are no more than about two to one against a score of this size occurring once amongst twenty scores. And although two other scores of comparable size are found amongst the agents, this is insufficient for significance.

The only real evidence for the results being not wholly chance determined is from one run through a pack of forty cards with Macmanus as percipient and Painter as agent in which the score was seven whereas mean chance expectation is one. If treated as a single observation the odds against this occurring by chance would be enormous ($P = .000055$). It is, however, the selected best of 270 runs, and the likelihood of such a value occurring by chance at least once in 270 trials is about .015 (i.e. about 65 to 1 against).

Since neither the grand total nor the separate totals of agents or percipients deviate appreciably from what we should expect by chance, it is extremely unlikely that we should find evidence of the effects we are looking for. In the hope, however, that this experiment may be repeated some time with more positive material, I will go through the further steps of the enquiry.

1. Proof that agents differ amongst themselves in psi capacity would be provided by the observed variance between the agents' totals being significantly greater than that to be expected on the hypothesis that there are only random differences between the totals of agents. It does not seem quite correct to do this by the ordinary method of analysis of variance since the table differs from that of the usual form in the fact that there is no principal diagonal (since there is no experiment in which the subjects act both as agent and percipient). Nor does it seem satisfactory to calculate the theoretical variance from the formula Npq where $p = 1/40$ and $q = 39/40$ since this will underestimate the expected variance between agents if subjects are scoring positively. If, however, p is taken as the observed proportion of successes and q as the observed proportion of failures, this formula can correctly be used to estimate the expected variance between agents. In the present case p is $283/10800 (= .026)$ and q is $10517/10800 (= .974)$. N (the total number of guesses per agent) is 1080. The expected variance between agents' totals is, therefore, $1080 \times .026 \times .974 = 27.4$.

The observed variance is the sum of the squares of the deviations of each agent's total from the mean of 28.3, divided by the number of degrees of freedom which is 9 (i.e. one less than the number of agents). The sum of the squares of deviations from the mean is $(.7)^2 + (9.7)^2 + \text{etc.}$, which comes to 250. The observed variance between agents is, therefore $250/9 = 27.8$ which is remarkably near to the theoretical value, showing that this set of

periments gives no evidence of agents differing amongst themselves in the scores obtained by them.

2. The problem of the reality of differences between percipients is the same. The expected variance is the same as in the case of agents (27.4). The observed variance between percipients is 29.6. Although somewhat larger than in the last case, the difference falls far short of significance (by Fisher's tables of variance ratios) the observed variance would have to be about twice the expected variance for the difference to be significant. These results, therefore, also provide no evidence of a real difference between percipients.

3. If it had been found that there was a real difference between agents and between percipients, the next question would be whether these differences were correlated, *i.e.* whether a good percipient tended also to be a good agent. Here the product-moment correlation is -0.8 , which (as might be expected) wholly insignificant.

I should like to end by expressing appreciation of the amount of hard work on the part of organisers and experimenters which went into these experiments, and my regret that this hard work has borne so little fruit. That is liable to happen in experimental work in psychical research. We must hope that the time will soon come when we can improve methods of experimenting (by the use of drugs or other means) so that we can get positive results whenever we like. Then we shall have overcome the principal difficulty in experimental advance in psychical research.

R. H. THOULESS

EXPERIMENTERS' REPORT ON CONDITIONS OF THE INVESTIGATION

THE forty-five separate sittings involved in the experiment all took place during the Lent Term 1947. The problem of organising such a large amount of work during a term largely occupied by academic activities was not easy, and it was decided that the experimenters themselves could not be present at more than a small proportion of the sittings. Accordingly a sheet of detailed instructions was issued and the subjects were asked to arrange the sittings amongst themselves. These instructions were designed to secure constancy of conditions and to safeguard against faulty recording and conscious or unconscious fraud in so far as limited and always variable facilities permitted. At least one observer was present at every sitting and twenty-eight people took part as observers in the whole series of sittings. The instruction sheet is given at the end of this report.

It was felt, nevertheless, that even if the results had been significant the nature of the conditions themselves and the doubtful efficacy of written instructions to secure their own fulfilment made the experiment inadequate to provide, in itself, conclusive evidence of paranormality. If positive results had been obtained, therefore, a further test would have been carried out with some of the more successful pairs of subjects under the most stringent conditions to eliminate all possibility of spurious success. If

success had continued, it would have been argued that with subjects who have demonstrated genuine powers there is little reason for taking a highly suspicious and sceptical attitude towards evidence concerning the laws of operation of these powers. However improbable E.S.P. may be it is scarcely reasonable to take the attitude that, *given* E.S.P., any characteristic that it may be claimed to have is highly improbable. Sceptical criticism would be directed against the properly controlled tests, not against the main series of sittings. If the controlled tests had failed to give positive results the validity of the main series would have been a matter of opinion but the experimenters feel bound to state that in that event they personally would not feel entirely convinced of the validity of any evidence of paranormality derived from the main series alone.

Details of exact experimental conditions for each sitting and procedure to eliminate miscounting etc., were recorded but are not included in this report, as the conclusions of the experiment are almost entirely negative. It is known that in at least three sittings the conditions were not exactly in accordance with the instructions. It should perhaps be mentioned that one of these three included the single run between Painter and Macmanus in which the only evidence in the whole series for anything but chance determined was obtained. During this run the agent and percipient were facing one another instead of being back to back, and the percipient was blindfold.

The experimenters would like to express their thanks and those of the Group to Dr Thouless for his help and advice and for the above report on the purpose, method, and conclusions of the experiment.

C. S. O'D. SCOTT

A. M. WESTERN

SPECIMEN INSTRUCTION SHEET

P. —Percipient. A. —Agent. O.—Observer. (An observer must be present throughout).

At least one pack of cards, less picture cards, is needed.

Procedure.

P and A are back to back as far apart as possible in the same room. O sits facing A across a table. Care about mirrors, pictures, etc.

A thoroughly shuffles the pack, puts it on the table, and looks at the cards one by one for P to guess, letting O see only the backs of the cards. The cards are not recorded at the time but placed on the pile for future recording.

O records P's guesses as he calls them out, does not look at cards being guessed (except at their backs), but keeps an eye on A.

A must not speak, but should take the greatest care not to convey any information by slight movements, sounds, etc.

The only signal for the next card to be "sent" is P's statement of his guess.

Every card must be guessed and recorded in full (*e.g.* 4C).

No trial guesses may be made at the beginning.

At the end of a run of forty cards (*i.e.* the pack) A records cards from pile in column beside guesses. O watches to see no mistakes.

the essence of the experiment is constant conditions for all experiments, P must *not* be told his scoring until all nine of his experiments are completed.

For the next run the cards (better another pack) are *thoroughly* shuffled A, without the others being able to see, and then used.

For each person, three runs through the pack as P, and three as A, constitute an experiment.

Three runs are recorded on each sheet. Time and date should be noted on each sheet.

Every sheet must be signed by A, O, and P, specifying which is which, and certify that these conditions have been fulfilled. If there is *any* deviation from the conditions it should be noted on the sheet before signing.

The sheets should be handed in as soon as possible after the experiment over to D, King's Hostel, or to G.10, St. Mi.'s Ct., Caius.

The observer is requested to fulfil his functions with the greatest care as it is very easy to miss some important point.

Cambridge University Psychical Research Group.

REVIEWS

They Survive. Compiled by Miss E. B. Gibbes from the scripts of Miss Geraldine Cummins. Rider, London, 1946. 12s. 6d.

This book is a record of twelve cases of apparent communications from deceased persons recorded by Miss Cummins, mainly by "automatic" writing. Each case has a feature which distinguishes it from the usual type of spirit communications; in most of them the communicator was completely unknown to the medium and in several of them to the sitter also, many correct facts were recorded.

They include the well-known *Pearl Tie Pin* case, already published in William Barrett's book *On the Threshold of the Unseen* and Mrs Hester Dowden's *Voices from the Void*. Miss Cummins was only the sitter and Mrs Dowden used the Ouija Board. Given the facts, it would be interesting if some of our members would suggest a normal explanation of this case. Several of the other cases approach, if they do not reach this standard. Those of Bob F., Henry Boyce and Captain J. M. are of special interest from this angle, though from the point of view of a scientific society, there is insufficient corroboration of the facts and the possibility of selection, conscious or unconscious, from the original records. Few readers, however, should not be prepared to accept the good faith of Miss Cummins and Miss Gibbes.

Apart from this, the interest of the book lies in the high standard of accuracy in Miss Cummins' work in such a number of cases, the evidence of continuing personality in those of T. M., Elizabeth B., and the Rosses, and a picture of the next stage of life very difficult for those with preconceived notions of "heaven" to accept.

Two features deserve special notice. In the case of Elizabeth B., a former backward child purporting to send a message to her mother, the first communication was in rather stilted language and seemed to her mother

not to be at all in character. Later on the wording became quite natural and typical of the child who said (p. 61) "I have been helped by some one here to speak. The first time he called me he did the speaking for me because I did not know how to write. So I expect you were a bit puzzled about what was said. He tried to say for me what I wanted to say but of course he talked his own way. Now I know what to do." This of course refers to Astor, Miss Cummins' "guide" and is evidence in favour of a separate personality.

In another case (T. M.) the communicator explained the possible cause of error thus: "I see the words coming on a glass as I think the thought they embody. But now and then wrong words get in and the thought is always completed just exactly as I think it." This indicates that telepathy is the *modus operandi* in this case, as explained by Myers (*The Dorris Case*, *Proc.* 1911) where he says it is the normal method and consists of the citation of existing ideas in the medium's mind.

This is not a book that would convince or even perhaps influence a complete sceptic. Indeed nothing but personal experience ever will. But a person with a scientific mind and no strong prejudice and a little knowledge of the subject will find it well worth study. There cannot be too many books of this type and very few are so well presented as this. Miss Gibbes is well aware of the many pitfalls in her path and the need for accurate recording, as well as of the criticisms to which evidence of this kind is exposed. She answers as many as she can in advance but in a well balanced manner and without bias.

B. A. C.

Problems in Abnormal Behaviour. NATHANIEL THORNTON. Pp. 200. Philadelphia, 1946.

This book does not deal with supernormal phenomena, but it is of interest to all who need to know something of the complexities of human personality. Many aspects of abnormal psychology are touched upon including such diverse topics as neurosis, the interpretation of dreams, insanity, psycho-analysis, psychological types, hypnotism, narco-analysis, derangements of the sexual impulse and epilepsy. To do justice to any one of these subjects would have required several volumes. The present book is in the nature of a series of fleeting sketches rather than careful expositions. It might have been better if the range had been more restricted and the treatment more detailed.

Notwithstanding this limitation, it is a useful work, and it will serve as a good introduction to the many-sided problems of human mentality. The value of the book is increased by the author's healthy habit of defining terms as well as his objective attitude to the divergent theories which complicate the subject matter. In discussing the genesis of mental abnormality, equal prominence is given to environmental factors (which determine the frequency of a neurosis) and to hereditary and constitutional factors (which determine the incidence of insanities and sexual aberrations).

In the section of the book dealing with sex, it is interesting to note that many well-known psychical researchers (*e.g.* Dessoir, Moll, Schrenk Notzing) have been experts in this subject also.

D. J. V.

Journal of Parapsychology. Vol. XI, no. 2, June 1947.

This number of *The Journal* opens with an obituary notice, by the Editor, Dr C. E. Stuart whose death this year was a sad loss to American Psychi-Research.

M. Bevan compared a group of twelve subjects doing E.S.P. experiments in light and in darkness. They scored above mean chance expectation in light and below in darkness with a significant difference between the scores in the two conditions.

G. Pratt has made a further analysis of position effects in the records of P.K. experiments. The usual terminal salience effects are found at both high and low aim. Since success was found to an appreciable extent only at the beginning and end of columns, it seemed that a large part of the test was contributing little or nothing to the final total, and that it might be worth while to design tests in such a way as to eliminate these unfitable areas.

There is an important contribution by the late C. E. Stuart and other workers on the relation between E.S.P. results and personality measurements of which the most significant finding is that those making "expansive" drawings scored more highly in clairvoyant perceptions of drawings than did those subjects who made "compressive" drawings. In view of the importance of such comparisons, it is a pity that a more adequate statistical technique of comparison is not used. It seems to me that the comparison should not be between the total score in the two cases but between the number of individuals scoring respectively above and below chance in the two groups. No figures are given by which one can estimate whether the difference between the groups would also be significant if determined in this way. In view of the large number of subjects used (thirty-six expansive and fifty-nine compressive) it seems likely that it would. There is also a discussion by a physicist R. A. McConnell as to whether such phenomena as P.K. are physical or non-physical.

R. H. T.

LIBRARY NOTICE

The Council is anxious that the Society's library should include all important books on psychical research and closely related subjects. The Library Committee would be obliged to members for notification of any book, new or old, which it is considered should be obtained for the library. They would also be glad to hear of any articles or discussions, likely to be of interest to members, which appear in non-psychic books and periodicals.

CORRESPONDENCE

—Is the old rule regarding the privacy of the *Journal* really necessary? It is generally agreed that the educated world is scandalously ignorant of, and indifferent to, the work of the Society; and anything that would contribute, in whatever degree, to the removal of this state of affairs, is a step in advance.

As to the objections of any contributors of cases who might not wish to have their names published, these could surely be overcome by the use of pseudonyms, initials, and such-like. There would, of course, be no question of making public the contents of past *Journals*, which were maintained on the definite assurance that this would not be done.

The excellent recent issue (June-July), in which this rule was relaxed, shows, I think, that this policy is popular, and also that it is practical and does not lead to a scarcity of cases.

It might also be said that the printing in a public *Journal* of cases which, although of some interest, are weak evidentially, would bring the *Society* into disrepute. But if it should be held desirable to include any such cases when further evidence is unobtainable, an editorial note can always be included, pointing out the weaknesses. As this is the exact procedure that was adopted in the above-mentioned issue (a case of apparent retrocognition), I do not think that this objection can be considered a serious one.

Moreover, the *Journal* is available at the British Museum, and, I believe, elsewhere. Surely the maintenance of this theoretical privacy is rather unnecessary.

Yours faithfully,

A. M. WESTER

[While we entirely agree with our correspondent that a wider circulation of some of the material printed in the *Journal* would be useful, we think that the issue of occasional special numbers with unrestricted circulation may solve the difficulty better than an immediate abrogation of the rule of privacy. Some of the matter in the *Journal* is genuinely meant for members only. Liberty to quote cases printed in the *Journal* is often given, provided the consent of the persons concerned is obtained.—HON. EDITOR.]